

BIG SPY SYSTEM
BROUGHT TO LIGHT

Four Condemned to Death at Trial Held by Field Court for Brussels.

PRISON TERMS FOR OTHERS

Leader of Band Had Furnished Information to French Since Outbreak of War.

BERLIN, May 27.—A great spy trial has just been held by the Field Court of the district of Brussels. It has revealed widespread activity of French, English and Belgian spies behind the German front.

The principal defendants were Oscar Hernalsteens, an artist of Roubaix; Frank van Aerde, an industrial draughtsman of Antwerp; Julius Mohr, an insurance agent of Valenciennes; and Emile Gressler, a road master of St. Amand. All four were convicted, condemned to death and executed.

Hernalsteens, the leader of the band of spies, admitted that he had furnished important military information to the French ever since the beginning of the war and had organized a system of espionage which enabled him to send not only reports on the movements of the German troops, but also drawings and photographs of field fortifications to France.

He styled himself an anarchist, and said he took part in a bomb plot against a Belgian judge in 1911, but was acquitted, because the evidence against him was not sufficient.

Van Aerde, who was the principal assistant of Hernalsteens, also confessed. He said he entered the service of the French Intelligence Bureau in the fall of 1914, and regularly took reports from the Flemish, Holland, where he handed them to a French officer. He drew no fixed salary, but generally received from \$30 to \$40 for the information he furnished.

Mohr, a German by birth, at first strenuously asserted he was innocent, but at the trial broke down completely and confessed that he had become a traitor. He had received about \$6,000 from the French government, while Gressler was only paid \$18 per month.

OTHER DEFENDANTS GIVEN PRISON TERMS

The other defendants were Georges Hernalsteens, a brother of the leader of the spies; Gustave Desmoul, a railroad laborer of Ghent; Oscar Denatte, a movie operator of St. Croix; Constant Patin, a laborer of Lille; Albert Cay, a painter of Brussels; Albert Lisnard, a wealthy contractor of Valenciennes and friend of Mohr; Jacob Broilouin, a poultry dealer of Le Pilainge; Joseph Vermeulen, a brick manufacturer of Ghent; Professor Joseph Gossensnaert, Frank van Kenove, a mail carrier, and two women.

Georges Hernalsteens was sentenced to imprisonment for life and the others will have to spend from ten to fifteen years behind prison bars, with the exception of the two women, who got off with four months each.

A diamond dealer from Antwerp who also was accused of being mixed up in the espionage plot was acquitted.

WANTS NO SHOWY OFFICERS

General Cadorna, Leader of Italian Army, Prefers Sensible Men Under Him.

BERNE, May 27.—General Cadorna, leader of the Italian army, has a strong objection to "showy" officers.

"We have no use," he says, "for heroes of romance."

When Peppino Garibaldi, who is noted for his reckless courage, sought a commission in the Italian army, after having served as a volunteer in France, D'Annunzio, the poet, said: "Peppino Garibaldi is one of our best."

"That is bad," retorted General Cadorna, tersely. "An officer should be taught first of all not to get killed himself, and not to expose his men without need. An officer who is worthy of his position does not fear death, but he does not despise life."

TITLE OF LITTLE USE

Vicount Canterbury Arraigned for Being Absent When Called for War Service.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, May 27.—British courts in war time give short shrift to titles. This was proved when Vicount Canterbury, lord of 5,200 acres, was arraigned on a charge of being absent without leave when called up for war service.

The vicount said he was doing work in a government office, and, far from trying to evade service, was seeking the duty most useful to his country, whatever it might be. His solicitor argued that there had been a misunderstanding as to an adjournment of the case, supposed to have been granted by the War Office and the admiralty.

The magistrate swept the defense aside and fined the prisoner \$8, a humiliation, if no great penalty.

CANNOT LEAVE PEKING

Yuan Shi Kai Issues Order That Public Officials Must Stay in Capital.

PEKING, May 27.—Yuan Shi Kai has issued a general order forbidding public officials from leaving Peking and seeking shelter in Tientsin and other foreign settlements, as a result of current rumors of possible disturbances in the capital. The President has warned officials that such action on their part sets a bad example to the people, and that offenders will be punished.

Yuan Shi Kai's order declares there is no truth in the rumors, which he believes were "engineered" by bad characters, who have purposely circulated them in order to enforce their wicked plans and intrigues.

BRITISH ARMY AT FRONT
SHOWS GREAT INCREASE

Amazing Gains in Numbers of Men, Guns and Equipment in Past Six Months.

FRONT EXTENDS 100 MILES

Second Winter in Trenches Finished, and Soldiers Are Asking What Will Happen This Summer—Chaplain Receives Victoria Cross.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 27.—A correspondent who has been absent for six months from the British front is amazed, upon his return, at the increase in numbers of men, guns and equipment. The numerous battalions of the new army which have arrived have engulfed the old regular army. Not one officer in ten that are met have had any military service before the war.

It now requires a ride of 100 miles to compass the British front. Khaki is thick in the villages of the Somme country, as well as in those of Northern Belgium. The British hold the famous "labyrinth," as well as Ypres and Loos. In the course of the taking over of a long section of the French line, which freed French troops for service, hundreds of miles of wire had to be laid, transports organized, headquarters moved, new corps and divisions created and commanders appointed. In the last few months new men have come into positions of responsibility. Men who entered the army as second lieutenants have become captains without yet being old enough to vote. Majors have become colonels and generals.

"We do not know when the war will be over, but we do know that spring is here," said the soldiers. The second winter in the trenches is finished. Its chill, wet monotony is over. Before another winter—well, what will happen this summer? The growth of the army and the drawing of the moisture out of the mud emphasized the universal question. Never, so far as one can learn, have there been so many Germans and so many allied troops on the western front as at this time. Next to the Verdun region, the German concentration is heaviest in face of the British, where a section from the North Sea to Switzerland. No German troops have been drawn off from the British front as reinforcements for the attack on Verdun.

FIGHTING ON BRITISH FRONTS DESCRIBED AS TRENCH RAIDS

Whatever fighting there was through the winter and there now is along the British front might best be described as trench raids. One side or the other demolishes a section of enemy trench by exploding mines or by artillery concentration. Then the infantry rushes the trench, gathers in some prisoners, does what damage it can and returns to its own trench. In the morasses of the Ypres salient and the Loos region nothing more could be done, though a winter attack might be possible in high country like that around Verdun. Much ingenuity has been shown by both sides in these trench raids. But no sooner has one side worked out a new trick than the other learns how to counter it. "Mud" was the reason given in a word by an officer why the British could not attack in winter to relieve the pressure on Verdun. "It was the season the Germans would have chosen for us to attack," he added.

Notwithstanding the countless deeds of bravery that have been chronicled on the British front, the ceremony of awarding the Victoria Cross is still rare enough to be notable whenever it occurs. One such recent ceremony was, in fact, noted, for the recipient was the Rev. Noel Mellish, a London curate, who is the first chaplain in the British army to receive the cross in the present war, or in any war since the second Afghan campaign of 1879.

The units of the army were drawn up for the ceremony in a division forming a hollow square on the spring green of an open field, in the center of which stood Mr. Mellish and other officers who were to receive lesser decorations. The general who pinned the ribbon on the chaplain's breast read a brief account of the gallantry that won him the honor. The general told how, again and again, Mellish had risked his life to attend to and bring to places of safety those wounded in the fighting at St. Eloi. The clergyman, who is an extremely slender and boyish-looking man, of gentle manners, rather than a typical fighting parson, took his honors modestly, and was given a hearty round of cheers by the thousands of soldiers present.

MAY RENEW U-BOAT ATTACKS

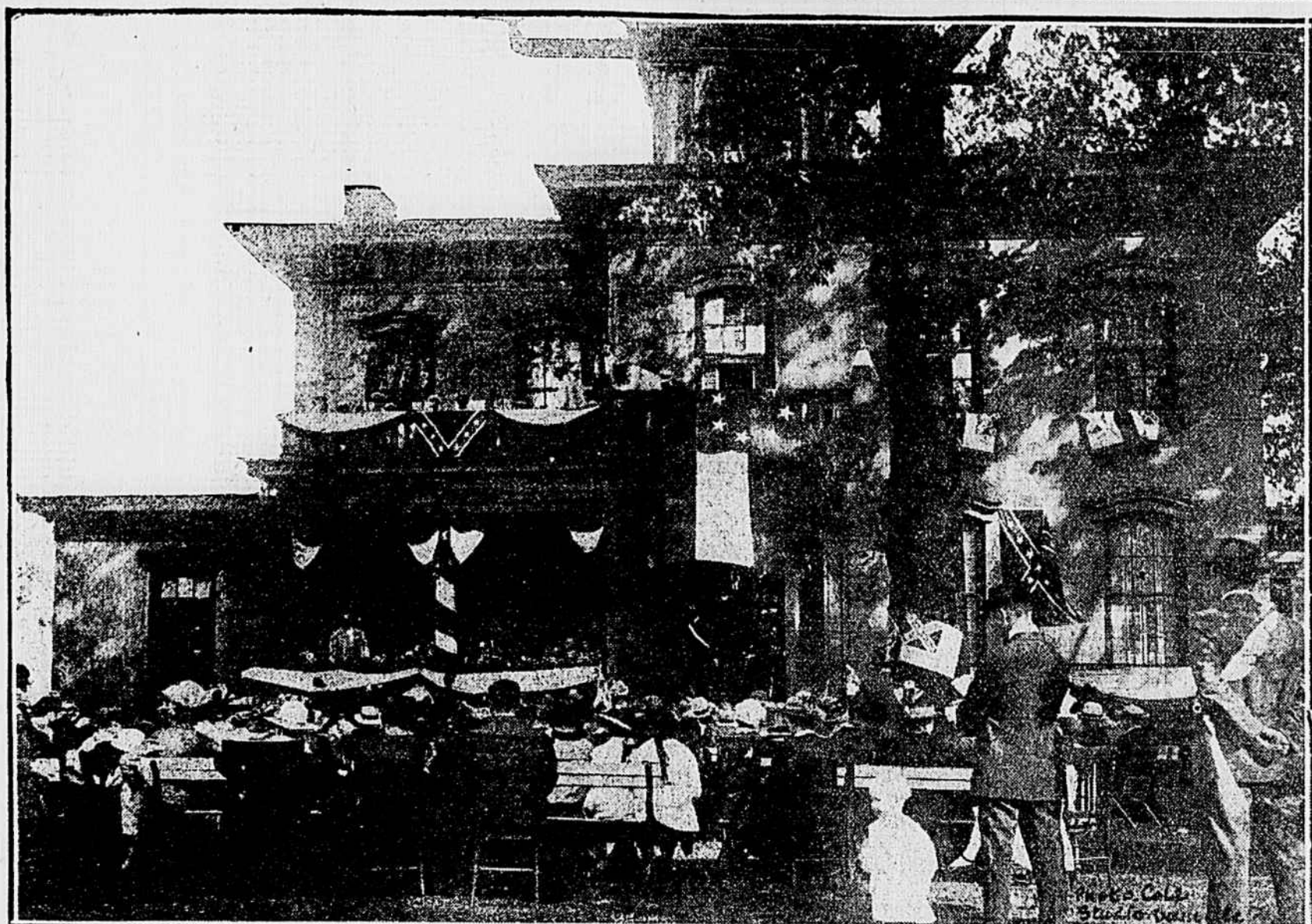
Danish Naval Expert Predicts Germany Will Start New Campaign in Fall.

COPENHAGEN, May 27.—A Danish naval expert, who recently visited Berlin and Kiel, and talked with many officers of the German navy, predicts in the Berlingske Tidende that Germany will renew her submarine war against British shipping late in the fall, if the neutral nations under the leadership of the United States do not force England to give up or at least modify her blockade.

"Germany has lost about twenty-five submarines, but over eighty new ones were built in the last twenty-one months," the officer writes. "At the present time there are about 110 U-boats in commission, but their number increases rapidly, and by October or November the German navy will have a submarine fleet of nearly 200. Such a fleet will be sufficient for a successful blockade of England."

"The possibility of an armed conflict with the United States will not prevent the Germans from using their most effective weapon relentlessly, if they become absolutely convinced that America is playing the game of their enemies."

Memorial Exercises in Last Capitol of the Confederacy



This photograph was taken in Danville while the annual memorial exercises in honor of the Confederate dead were taking place. Captain B. Y. Fretwell, an old soldier, is in the act of making an address, while the extreme right is Mayor Harry Wooding, master of ceremonies. The building is that of the Memorial Mansion, in which President Jefferson Davis held his last Cabinet meeting after his departure from Richmond. The city recently acquired the premises, which formerly belonged to Major W. T. Sutherland.

FLYING SHELLS PREVENT
BURYING DEAD SOLDIERS

German Officer, in Letter, Says Sight of Corpses Before Trenches Is Depressing.

SLEEPS IN HOLE IN THE MUD

Under Incessant Artillery Fire, French Resistance to Attacks Being Very Stubborn—Walks Two Miles to Eating Place.

PARIS, May 27.—The following letter to his family in Germany was found on a prisoner, Lieutenant Herdes, captured in one of the last infantry actions near Verdun:

"Our losses in officers have been very heavy, and as a result of this I am now in command of the Eighth Company. We are now in a first-line trench, and my sleeping place is a miserable hole in the mud, where I am fairly safe from the French shells, which continue to fall all around us day and night."

"I already had seen all I cared of war before I came here, but I never had imagined human beings could live under conditions as they are here. They are too dreadful to describe in detail."

"Day and night we are under constant artillery fire. The French resistance to our attacks is monstrously stubborn."

"A few days ago we launched an attack which we had hoped would end in our capture of some French trenches. For more than twelve hours previously our artillery had concentrated its fire on these trenches. Then our infantry advanced, but we found the French machine guns absolutely intact, and they were turned against us with such deadly effect that the first wave of our troops was annihilated before the men had got away from their trench."

"After that the French artillery opened a curtain fire, which made every attempt to attack hopeless. We are now in a first-line trench about 120 yards from the French. The situation has been miserable, but it is beautiful now."

"All the roads around here are continually shelled by French guns, so that it is not possible for us to bury our dead."

"The sight of these poor fellows lying dead in front of our positions is dreadfully depressing. We lose a great number of dead and wounded every day, and many lives have been lost in trying to bring back wounded men."

"For our meals we have to go two miles and a half to the rear to the field kitchens, but there also we are in danger of being killed."

"So many men, in fact, have been killed on their way there that a great many of us prefer to starve rather than expose ourselves to the dangers along the road there."

"We have had a great deal of sickness here, but now things are better. I am quite well myself, and I hope I will get out of this hole alive."

ECONOMY MOVEMENT FAILS

Increase of Food Prices in England Matter That Is Receiving Serious Consideration.

LONDON, May 27.—Official figures which show that since the war began there has been an average increase of 49 per cent in the prices of foodstuffs in England suggest the failure of the economy movement, designed to impress upon the nation the obligation of being thrifty in the consumption of food, so as to curtail imports and keep down prices.

The purchasing power of a pound (\$5) is now but a trifle more than \$2.50.

TOWN AT BRITISH FRONT
CENTER OF IRISH WORLD

Headquarters of Sixteenth Division Bears Many Marks of the Emerald Isle.

NO SINN FEINERS AMONG THEM

These Men Fighting Hard Against Germans at Time of Dublin Riots. Clever Stories Abound in the Trenches.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 27.—There is a town at the British front which is the center of an Irish world. It is the headquarters town of the Sixteenth, or Irish, Division. Irish voices are heard from the doorways of the houses. Flower pots of shamrock are on the mess tables of officers, who gather for their meals in the modest sitting-room of the local grocer or butcher where they are "billeted."

In his office a general who is Irish to the finger tips talks about his troops who were fighting hard against the Germans during the Dublin riots. If he is asked if there are any Sinn Feiners among them, he will refer the inquirer to the men themselves. They enlisted in the Irish new army battalions in face of the influence which produced Sinn Feinism. This gave them a distinction of character to start with, their officers say.

Sturdy, middle-aged men with strips of color worn in campaigns in India and South Africa while serving with regular Irish regiments, some still sergeants, some promoted to commissions, have been the drill masters of vigorous youth from Mayo or Kilkenny or Clare or Cork. But most of the officers, in common with most of the men, had never been in uniform when the war began.

A major, who is over six feet, and broad in proportion, standing stiff as a ramrod in salute, who looks as if he had been soldiering all his life, was a farmer in Waterford. He recruited a company from the surrounding countryside, and was given command. Promotion followed, as it has for other beginners. Those captains who are members of Parliament will get their now, unless they are among the casualties, which make room for others to rise. They say that they thought they could do better work for home rule at the front than in the Commons.

COMMANDERS WOULD NOT PART WITH IRISHMEN

"We wanted to draft the Irishmen who were in English and Scotch battalions into ours, so we should have all the Irish at the front under one command," said the general, "but we could not make the arrangement. The other commanders would not part with their Irishmen. British battalions like to have a sprinkling of Irish among their numbers. My men have had every test of trench fighting, gas and shells and sniping—and they've disproved any idea that the Irish were not as good and as brave as the rest. They've stuck like veterans. Native Irish humor relieves the grim monotony of the trenches."

"As for discipline—there's the record of courts-martial—the general indicated some blank spaces opposite the names of battalions on the wall—'Everybody prophesied that we would have heavy drinking on St. Patrick's Day because a lot of people have the idea that the Irish have a weakness for drink. I appealed to the men to be on their good behavior, with the result that we did not have a single case of intoxication.'"

CARGOES FROM AMERICA
ON WHARVES AT PIRAEUS

Object Lesson in What United States Has Become to Greece Since Outbreak of War.

TOUCH DAILY GROWS CLOSER

Wheat, Formerly From Russia and Roumania; Sugar, From Trieste, and Automobiles From France, Now Come From Across Seas.

PIRAEUS, GREECE, May 27.—An hour or so at a table in front of a cafe on the water front of Piraeus, the port of Athens, is an object lesson in what the United States has become to Greece since the outbreak of the European war. Once the wheat of Greece came from Russia and Roumania by way of the Dardanelles. Now two huge cargo boats moored to the sea wall are discharging American grain into the holds of a flock of waiting barges in half a dozen yellow streams. But the boats themselves are Greek, not American, and on their sides is painted the Greek flag, the same of the boat in Roman letters and the single word Greece.

On the quays, spread out in the hot spring sun, are hundreds of noisome-looking black sacks bearing the imprint of a New York firm and the label "granulated sugar." Once the sugar of Greece came from Trieste; now it journeys all the way from New Orleans. Four Greek merchants are tasting the contents of one of the opened sacks. The owner stands by, bill of lading in hand. The four retire to a distance to discuss terms. They all talk at once, gesturing, no one paying the least attention to what the others are saying. When one dissents, he does not shake his head, but lifts it sharply upwards, clicking his tongue impatiently. The discussion takes a very long time, but finally the bargain is struck, and the four purchasers and the consignee of the sugar, their day's work done, retire to a neighboring cafe to talk politics over Turkish coffee.

Close in the shadow of the wheat ship, a dozen or so men are unpacking a crate. A score of idlers look on, deeply absorbed as little by little an automobile is revealed. The machine comes from Detroit, not from France, as would have been the case before the war.

Across the harbor a huge, white passenger vessel is moored—the largest passenger vessel in active service for the transatlantic trip, these war times. It is the King Constantine, of the National Greek Line, plying between Piraeus and New York, making the trip in a fortnight. She, too, flies the Greek, not the American flag.

MONEY CHANGERS

Along the sidewalk opposite the quays are more reminders of the closing touch between Greece and the United States. Every few steps, in front of the wretched shops, are stationed the glass show cases of the money changers, filled with their motley collection of strange moneys—Bulgarian, Roumanian, Turkish, Egyptian, Russian and Serbian—the gold and silver in bowls, the paper hung on strings like washing on a line, against the glass sides of the show cases. In one corner is always a roll of American greenbacks—to Americans here, homelike and familiar in company with so much Oriental coinage. Spiro will be buying such a roll soon. Spiro is a petty officer who belongs to the Kiklis, which used to be the American battleship Idaho. Spiro does not live in Greece. He is from Saratoga, N. Y., and when his service is over in a month or two he is going back to his candy shop in Saratoga as fast as the King Constantine can take him place.

GENERAL BRUSSIOFF
BELIEVES IN HATRED

Russian Officer Says It Multiplies One's Force at Least Tenfold.

LOVED DESPITE STERNNESS

Sixty-Four Years Old, He Is Good Cavalryman, Eats Little and Often Works With His Staff Until Far Into Night.

PETROGRAD, May 27.—General Brussloff, who has just succeeded General Ivanoff as commander of the southern group of Russian armies, believes in hatred.

"Hatred for the enemy," he said recently, "multiplies one's force tenfold. Hatred is one of the pledges of victory. In the Slav heart there is too little hatred of the enemy, and it must be trained and cultivated."

Notwithstanding his sternness, Brussloff's men love him. One of his soldiers is said to have remarked at a critical juncture in a battle: "What—retreat? Impossible! We are Brussloff's!"

He is harder on himself than on any one else. He eats very little, finishes his dinner in twenty minutes and immediately goes into the near-by railroad car office, where he and his chief of staff work late into the night. When he speaks to his men it is with matter-of-fact abruptness which soldiers like.

Despite his sixty-four years, Brussloff is one of the best cavalrymen in Europe, and if his automobile sticks in the mud he continues his way on horseback. In the pink marshes, where horses would disappear, he jumps from bog to bog, and often goes knee-deep in the ooze. In the course of eighteen months he never left the army for one day and never saw his family. At last his wife came to visit him. Two weeks passed, and Brussloff told her it was time for her to return to Moscow.

Those around him, charmed by the society of Mme. Brussloff, hinted it would be well if she could remain a day or two longer. But the general was inflexible.

"Not another day, not in any case," he said. "When once there is an order that wives can visit their husbands for a fortnight, this rule must be binding for all. And as it is binding for husbands and second lieutenants, it is binding for the commander of the armies, must show an example to the younger officers."

The same day Mme. Brussloff left in an ordinary railroad coach.

On that visit of his wife a railroad car arrived with presents for the soldiers, and some one suggested that Mme. Brussloff distribute them in the trenches. The men, it was said, would like to receive them from the hands of the commander's wife. Brussloff gave his consent.

But some one, with an unhappy slip of the tongue, suggested that if the distribution took place under artillery fire the corps commander would reward her Excellency with a medal. Brussloff immediately knitted his brows.

"My wife will not go into the trenches," he decided. "It must not be said that Brussloff gave a medal to a close relation."

The trip to the trenches never took place.

PLATTSBURG IDEA
SWEEPS COUNTRY

Estimated That 55,000 Patriotic Citizens Will Train This Summer.

GIVE THEM TIME AND MONEY

City After City Follows New York in Showing of Aggressive Loyalty to Stars and Stripes.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, May 27.—The great preparedness parade, when 132,000 New Yorkers marched in a demonstration for national defense, gave an immense impulse to enlistment for the citizen training camps this summer.

The "Plattsburg idea" has swept the country.

City after city is following New York in getting together its patriotic citizens for a great showing of aggressive loyalty to the Stars and Stripes.

It is now estimated by army officers that 55,000 "business men" (meaning by that civilians, and including bankers, lawyers, clergymen and gentlemen of leisure), will put in a perspiring month's work for Uncle Sam this summer.

Not only will these men give a month's time (involving salary sacrifice in some cases) to their country, but each man must spend at least \$60, and many will pay out a good deal more.

What do they get out of it?

A feeling they have done their duty to America and a month of open-air exercise which tones up nerve and muscle and sends them back to the office chair with a new spring and vigor.

Our preparedness problem would be solved if every citizen of the 32,000,000 of military age in the United States would see his duty in the same light. How much is 32,000,000 times \$60? \$1,920,000,000.

The 55,000 at \$60 each will spend \$3,300,000.

The Mexican troubles, calling almost all the mobile army of the United States to the border, came near wrecking the training camp plans. For instance, in the Eastern Department, General Leonard Wood found it necessary to call upon seven officers attached to the army garrisons in the Canal Zone for service at Plattsburg.

REGISTRATIONS FOR PLATTSBURG ALONE WILL BE 22,000

It is estimated here that the registrations for the Plattsburg camp alone will be about 22,000. The estimates have been raised since the New York City parade.

The Department of the East, besides Plattsburg, also has charge of the Fort Oglethorpe (Ga.) camp, where the first session began on May 3. There will be three sessions at Oglethorpe, each of a month's duration. Probably 2,500 men will take the intensive course here, and among them, setting a good example to the younger generation, are several Civil War veterans.

The Western Department of the army will hold camp at Monterey, Cal., July 10 to August 5; another at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 21 to September 16, and a third at American Lake, Wash., August 14 to September 8. About 12,000 men will attend these three camps, and in addition at Salt Lake City 2,000 students have been instructed regularly by army officers for several weeks.

That the Middle West is not entirely of the stripe of William J. Bryan and Henry Ford will be proved at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind. There the Central Department will hold three sessions, lasting from July 5 to October 5.

Patriotic business men in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and other large cities are forming voluntary recruiting committees, and the fruits of the labors will be about 8,500 men working for preparedness at Benjamin Harrison this summer.

The number to attend the San Antonio (Tex.) camp, in the Department of the Southwest, from June 12 to July 8, is put at 4,500, but the unsettled conditions along the border and the consequent affairs may add another 500.

Plattsburg, N. Y., the original home of the business men's training camp, will be the greatest scene of activity of all. The first camp will open on June 3 and the last will close October 5.

Many great corporations are giving their men a month off with full pay in order to help national defense. Others are going one step further and granting those men who go to Plattsburg a vacation of two weeks with pay in addition to full pay during the time of the camp. The example of these companies is bound to be followed more and more widely.

One of the camps at Plattsburg, called the junior camp, will be for young men of eighteen to twenty-one, principally college graduates.

SUBJUNIOR CAMP FOR BOYS ALSO TO BE OPENED

There came such an insistent demand to join this camp from youths not yet eighteen years of age that a subjunior camp is to be opened for boys between fifteen and eighteen years.

This camp will be held at Fort Terry, Plattsburg, near Greenpoint, L. I. It will be a subdivision of the Plattsburg camp, and will be run under the supervision of regular army officers along the same lines.

High schools in Montclair, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Hartford, Mount Vernon, and many other cities and many "prep" schools, including Lawrenceville, Virginia Military Academy, St. Paul's Andover, Polytechnic and Worcester, have contingents going to Plattsburg.

Besides learning something about the big coast guns and doing a large amount of military work, the boys will have opportunities for baseball, swimming and other sports.

Another civilian camp will be conducted by the National Guard of New York State. At Peekskill, where the

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